

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1292

By Odom

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Representative John Hood for his meritorious service as a member of the General Assembly.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this Body should recognize those fellow legislators who have performed their duties with remarkable dexterity and unprecedented devotion and whose efforts to excel have brought substantial benefits to their respective communities and this great State; and

WHEREAS, Representative John Hood is one such distinguished public servant whose professionalism and proficiency will serve as a benchmark for future public officials; his illustrious career, which began in 1997, will come to an end at the adjournment sine die of the 105th General Assembly, as he has announced his retirement from this august Body; and

WHEREAS, Representative Hood has for many years been active in the political, social, and civic lives of the 48th House District and his native Rutherford County, and he has served his constituents in numerous capacities, always working at his elected duties and expending the necessary effort to understand the opposing sides of complex issues; and

WHEREAS, in November of 1996, the good people of House District 48 elected John Hood as their member to the House of Representatives, succeeding long-time friend and House member, John Bragg; and

WHEREAS, during his six terms and twelve years of service, Representative Hood has been a dedicated and well-informed legislator who always votes his conscience; and

WHEREAS, Representative Hood has rendered sterling service to the citizens of Tennessee as a member of the House Committee on Finance, Ways and Means, the Education Committee, the House Subcommittee on Higher Education, and as a member and Vice Chair of the Committee on Calendar and Rules; and

WHEREAS, he has successfully sponsored legislation to protect the public health and welfare, and especially to ensure the safety and education of our children, including the passage of Jessica's Law and Maddie's Law, legislation that created the Books From Birth Foundation, and the Kids In Cars bill; and

WHEREAS, he has also guided to passage legislation mandating primary enforcement of the safety belt laws and death benefits for volunteer firefighters and combating illegal immigration; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Representative Hood has been honored by the following organizations that have benefited greatly from his stalwart and effective advocacy in the legislature: Prevent Child Abuse Tennessee, Tennessee Association for Marriage and Family Therapy, Nashville Humane Association, Rutherford County Education Association, Tennessee Fire Service Coalition, Tennessee School Boards Association, and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the Meharry Medical School and State Farm Alliance for his passage of legislation mandating primary enforcement of safety belt laws; and

WHEREAS, Representative Hood's most recent honor is his selection as Legislator of the Year by the Greater Nashville Regional Council this year; and

WHEREAS, John Hood worked as a staff announcer for radio station WGNS in Murfreesboro for ten years; in 1954, he graduated from Middle Tennessee State University with a Bachelor of Science in Social Science, and, in 1974, he received a Masters of Education in Administration and Supervision; and

WHEREAS, from 1954 to 1956, John Hood nobly served his country as a member of the United States Army Security Agency; and

WHEREAS, in 1956, having completed his military service, Mr. Hood returned to commercial broadcasting as Program Director and News Director of radio station WMTS, and, in 1960, he joined the Samsonite Corporation as Personnel Manager; and

WHEREAS, John Hood served with distinction at Middle Tennessee State University as Director of Development from 1966 to 1970 and as Administrative Assistant to the President from 1970 to 1976; and

WHEREAS, in 1976, Mr. Hood became Vice President for Marketing and Public Relations for Murfreesboro Bank & Trust Co., which ultimately became SunTrust Bank, and in 1996, he retired after twenty years of laudable service; and

WHEREAS, Representative Hood is a charter member of the Exchange Club of Murfreesboro, member of the Board and Treasurer of the Rutherford County Emergency Communications District (E-911), member of the Board of Directors of the AAA Auto Club South and Chairman of the Tennessee Advisory Board for AAA Auto Club South, member of the Board of Directors and former President of the MTSU Alumni Association, and member of the Chamber of Commerce Diplomats; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hood has also served as President of the Rutherford County Chamber of Commerce, member of the Board and Chairman of the Murfreesboro City Board of Education, member of the Rutherford County Quarterly Court, now the County Commission, President of the Tennessee School Boards Association, Chairman of the Murfreesboro/Rutherford County Cultural Arts Commission, and National President of Exchange Clubs of America; and

WHEREAS, John Hood was joined in marriage with Marilyn Stockyard on September 6, 1951, and the couple's blessed union produced three children and four grandchildren: sons, Garry and Mark, and daughter, Rebecca Hagan; granddaughter, Christin Hagan; and three grandsons, twins, Grady and Cooper, and Robin; and

WHEREAS, Representative Hood's radio days have served him well as an announcer and master of ceremonies for Walking Horse shows throughout the Southeast, an avocation he describes as the closest thing he has to a hobby; and

WHEREAS, Representative John Hood is a gentleman whose prolific tenure on Capitol Hill will seldom be equaled and whose retirement from the General Assembly will create a void that will not easily be filled; his considerable talents and energies will be sorely missed by the good people of House District 48; and

WHEREAS, this Body finds it appropriate to bid farewell to our friend and colleague, Representative John Hood; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor Representative John Hood for his meritorious service to Tennessee as a member of the General Assembly and commend him for his countless contributions and many good works in service of the citizens of House District 48 and Rutherford County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we extend to John Hood our best wishes for much success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation to Representative John Hood as a token of our esteem.